

## CHAPTER 9

# BATTALION AND BRIGADE DRILL

*"The exterior splendor, the regularity of movements, the adroitness and at the same time firmness of the mass—all this gives the individual soldier the safe and calming conviction that nothing can withstand his particular regiment or battalion."*

Colmar von der Goltz, 1843-1916 Rossback und Jena

*For the most part, battalion and brigade drill merely provides the procedures for executing company or battalion drill in conjunction with other companies or battalions in the same formation.*

*For drill purposes, a battalion or brigade consists of a headquarters (staff), Colors, and two or more companies or battalions. The right flank unit serves as base when in a line formation; the leading element is the base when in column.*

**NOTE:** Executive officers, first sergeants, and platoon sergeants form the same as in company drill for all formations unless otherwise specified.

### 9-1. BATTALION FORMATIONS

The battalion has two basic formations—a line and a column. Separate elements may be arranged in several variations within either formation: the battalion may be formed in line with the companies in line with platoons in line, or battalion in line with companies in column with platoons in line (Figure 9-1, page 9-2). From those formations, the battalion may be positioned in a battalion in column with companies in column, or companies in mass, or companies in column with platoons in line (Figure 9-2, page 9-3).

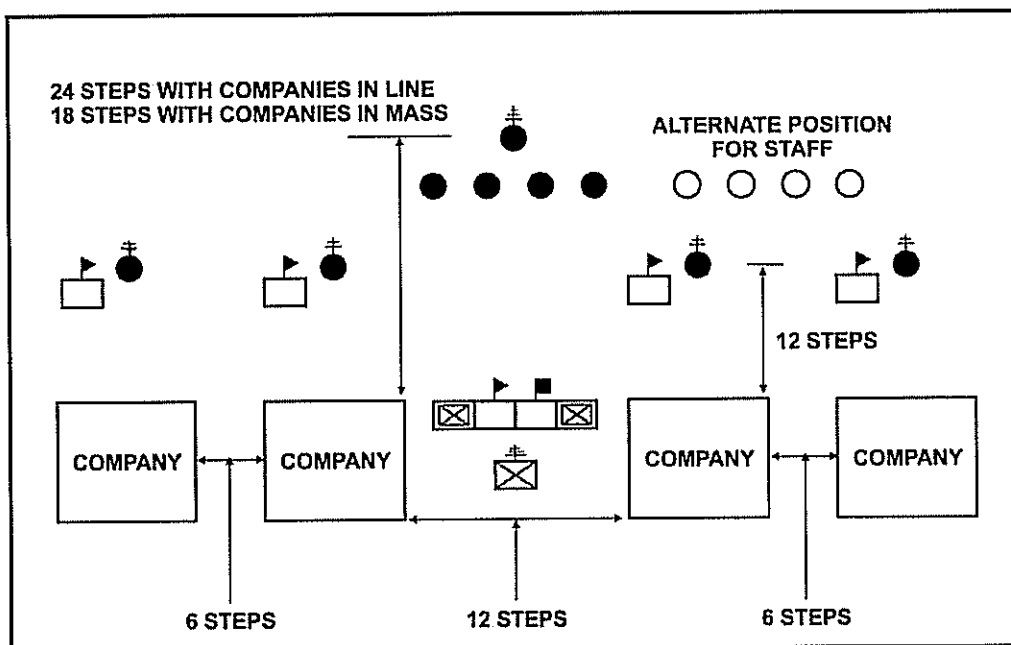


Figure 9-1. Battalion in line with companies in line or mass.

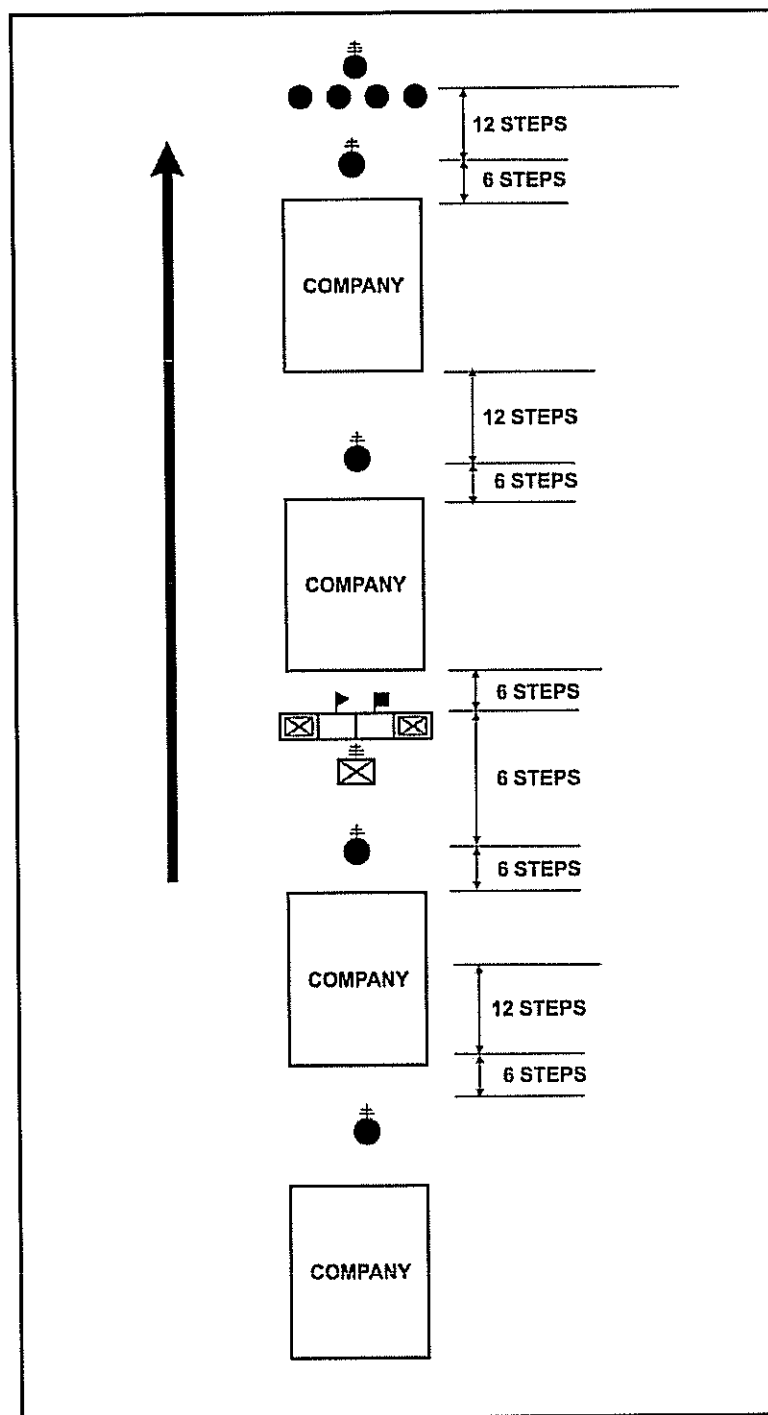


Figure 9-2. Battalion in column with companies in column or mass.

a. **Forming the Battalion.** To facilitate the forming of a larger unit, the commander normally alerts the component units as to the desired formation, time, place, route, uniform, and the sequence in which the units will form. Unless the right guide's position

at the formation site has been previously marked, the guides report to the site and receive instructions before the arrival of the troops.

(1) The commissioned staff forms in one rank, at normal interval and centered on the commander. Staff members are normally arranged in their numerical order from right to left. When enlisted staff personnel form as part of the officer staff, they form two steps to the rear of their respective staff officer. The command sergeant major forms one step to the rear and centered on the Colors.

(2) When the battalion participates as a separate element of a larger formation, or when space is limited, it is normally formed in a mass formation in the same manner as forming a company mass (Figure 9-3).

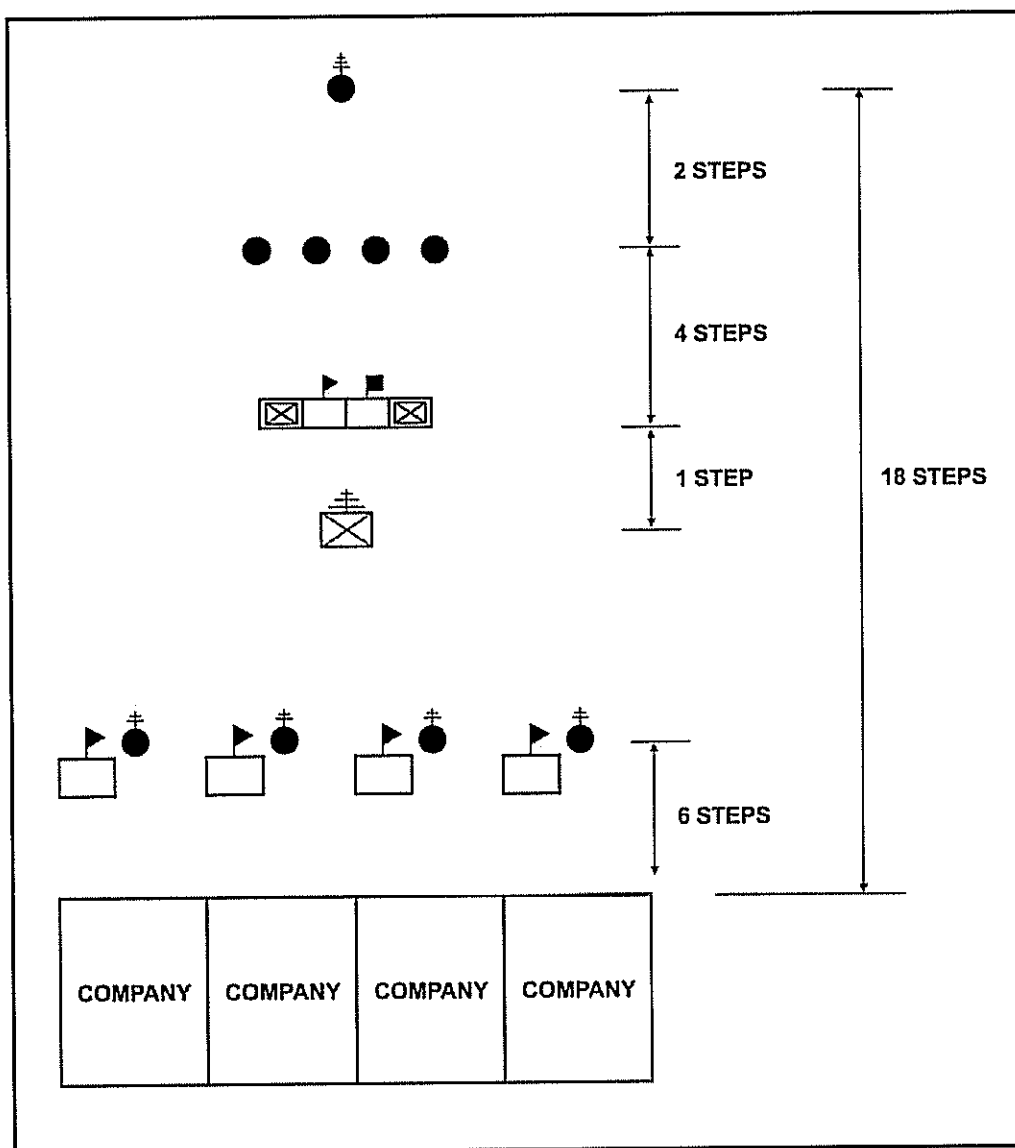


Figure 9-3. Battalion in mass formation.

(3) The adjutant is responsible for the formation of troops. He takes a position at the right flank of the line on which the units are to form and faces down the line. He remains facing down the line until all units are formed and then marches to his post midway between the line of troops and the proposed position of the commander. As the commander and his staff approach, the adjutant commands (directs) the units to **ATTENTION**, faces the commander, salutes, and reports, "*Sir, the battalion is formed.*"

**NOTE:** If guides are used, the adjutant takes his post as soon as the guides have been aligned.

(4) The commander returns the *Salute* and commands **POST**. The adjutant marches forward, passes to the commander's right, and takes his post as the right flank staff officer. The commander then commands or directs such actions as he desires.

(5) Normally, the Colors are positioned at the center of the battalion when formed in line or column, and four steps to the rear of the staff when formed in mass.

b. **Dismissing the Battalion.** To dismiss the battalion, the commander commands **TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR UNITS**. The company commanders and battalion commander exchange *Salutes*. The battalion commander returns all *Salutes* with one *Salute*. He then dismisses his staff.

**NOTE:** In a battalion mass formation, the platoon leaders form as the first rank of troops. The right flank platoon leader serves as the guide.

c. **Inspecting the Battalion.** When the battalion is to be inspected, the adjutant forms the battalion in line with companies in line and platoons in line.

(1) The adjutant forms the troops, reports, and takes his position with the staff (as previously described). When the adjutant has joined the staff, the battalion commander directs **PREPARE FOR INSPECTION**. Unit commanders face about and give the same directive. The platoon leaders prepare their platoons for inspection in the same manner as in company drill. When all of the platoons in each company have completed opening ranks and have dressed right, the company commander faces the battalion commander. When all company commanders are again facing him, the battalion commander commands **AT EASE**.

**NOTE:** Because of the time involved in inspecting a battalion, the commander normally directs his staff to inspect the companies while he inspects the Colors and makes a general inspection of the battalion. The Color guards do not execute *Inspection Arms*.

(2) As the battalion commander (or his designated staff officer) approaches the company, the company commander faces about, salutes, and reports, "*Sir, \_\_\_\_\_ Company is prepared for inspection.*" The inspecting officer then proceeds to the first platoon to be inspected. The company commander takes a position to the left of the inspecting officer. The platoons are inspected in the same manner as explained in company drill. In the event a platoon has already been inspected by a staff officer, or is

waiting to be inspected by a staff officer, and the battalion commander approaches, the battalion commander is invited to inspect the platoon.

(3) When the inspection has been completed and the battalion commander is en route back to his post, the company commanders bring their units to **ATTENTION** and **CLOSE RANKS** and **AT EASE**. When the battalion commander has returned to the front of the formation and all staff officers have completed their inspection, the battalion commander commands **Battalion, ATTENTION** and dismisses the battalion (as previously described).

(4) If the battalion is being inspected by a higher commander and his staff, the battalion commander reports to the inspecting officer in the same manner as the company commanders. The battalion commander's staff takes a position to the left of the higher inspecting staff and escorts them to the unit. The battalion commander escorts the higher commander.

## 9-2. BRIGADE FORMATIONS

The brigade, like the battalion, has two basic formations—a line and a column. The battalions may be arranged in several variations within either formation: the brigade may be formed with battalions in mass, or battalions in line with companies in mass. From those formations, the brigade may be positioned in column with battalions in mass, companies in mass, or battalions in column with companies in column. The formation selected is normally dictated by the space available and the desires of the commander (Figure 9-4).

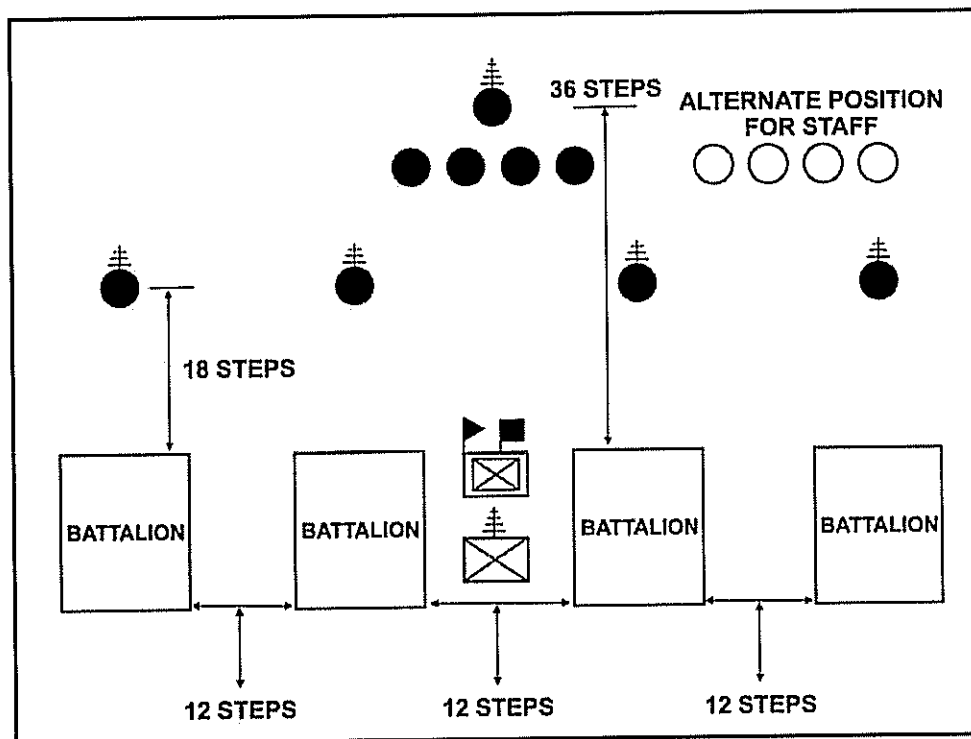


Figure 9-4. Brigade in line with battalions in mass.

- a. The brigade is formed and dismissed in the same manner as the battalion.
- b. Normally, the brigade Color is positioned at the center of the brigade. Subordinate Color-bearing organizations position their Colors to the center of their formation when in a line or column formation, or four steps to the rear of their staff when in a mass formation (Figure 9-5).

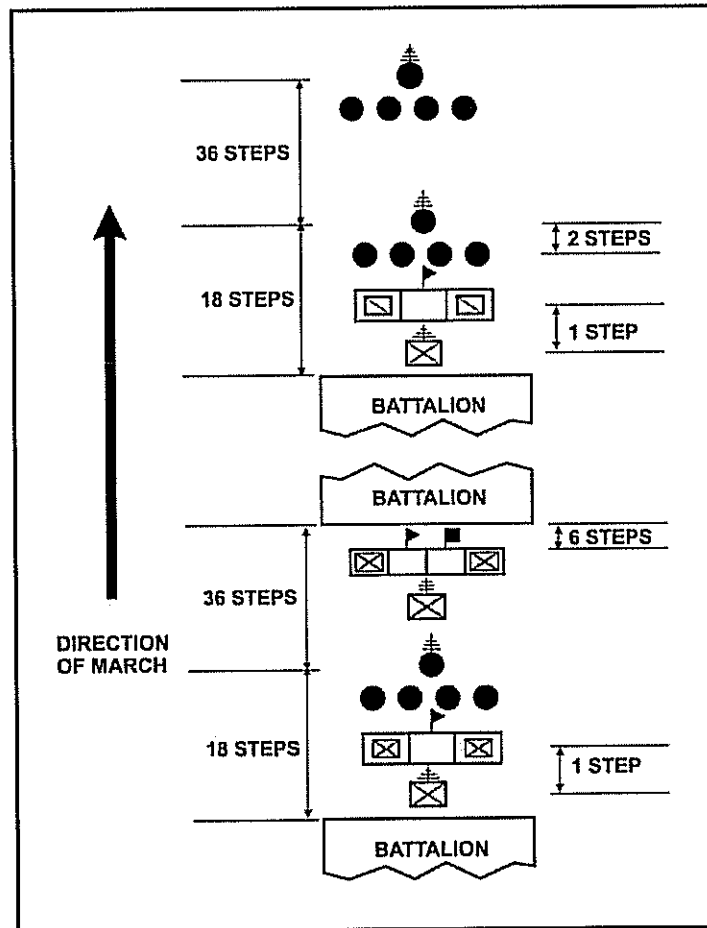


Figure 9-5. Brigade in column.